

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

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R 021325Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

SECSTATE WASHDC 6948

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 0037

FROM AMBASSADOR MARSHALL FOR CHIEF OF STAFF LTG KNOWLTON

USCINCEUR ALSO PASS POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CGEN, PFOR, UG

SUBJECT: TRAVEL TO UGANDA

1. I AM TAKING THE LIBERTY OF COMMUNICATING DIRECTLY WITH YOU ABOUT A PROBLEM WHICH YOU MAY BE ABLE TO HELP US RESOLVE. ON DECEMBER 31, 4 DOD CIVILIANS STATIONED IN GERMANY CAME TO THIS EMBASSY SEEKING U.S. CUSTOMS INFORMATION. AN EMBASSY OFFICER DISCOVERED IN TALKING WITH THEM THAT THEY WERE PLANNING A THREE-DAY STAY IN UGANDA AS PART OF A PACKAGE TOUR GROUP OF APPROXIMATELY 70 AMERICANS, MOST OF WHOM WERE MILITARY OR CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES (OR THEIR DEPENDENTS) OF U.S. FACILITIES IN THE EUCOM AREA. PACKAGE TOUR WAS ORGANIZED BY GRIESLER TOURS OF FRANKFURT/MAIN. DESPITE EMBASSY'S STRONG URGING THAT THEY NOT TRAVEL TO UGANDA, ENTIRE GROUP FLEW TO ENTEBBE DEC. 31, CITING THE FACT THEY HAD PREPAID THEIR TRIP. THEY PLANNED TO LEAVE UGANDA JAN. 3 AT 2245 LOCAL VIA SABENA 492 TO BRUSSELS. I HOPE THEY ALL SUCCEED IN DOING SO WITHOUT INCIDENT.

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2. MANY OF THE MEMBERS OF THIS GROUP WERE USING U.S.

OFFICIAL PASSPORTS, WHICH LIKELY TO CALL ATTENTION TO THEM IF UGANDANS NOT OTHERWISE AWARE OF THEIR MILITARY AFFILIATION. WE PERSONALLY CONTACTED AS MANY MEMBERS OF GROUP AS POSSIBLE, BUT NONE DECIDED TO CANCEL UGANDA SEGMENT OF TRIP. ALTHOUGH THESE PEOPLE WERE ALL PERFORMING PERSONAL TRAVEL, AND THUS NOT SUBJECT TO COUNTRY CLEARANCE REQUIREMENTS, I BELIEVE THEY SHOWED POOR JUDGEMENT TO SIGN UP FOR A TOUR WHICH INCLUDED UGANDA, AND EQUALLY POOR JUDGEMENT IN DISREGARDING THIS EMBASSY'S ADVICE NOT TO GO THERE.

3. THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN KAMPALA, UGANDA, WAS CLOSED IN NOVEMBER 1973. THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE HAS NOTIFIED ALL AMERICAN DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS THAT TRAVEL TO UGANDA BY PRIVATE CITIZENS IS NOT ADVISABLE. U.S. GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ARE ESPECIALLY DISCOURAGED FROM VISITING UGANDA (ALTHOUGH THERE IS NO OUTRIGHT PROHIBITION). WHILE AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICIALS IN GERMANY ARE AWARE OF THIS ADVICE, THEY DO NOT ALWAYS HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PASS IT ON TO AMERICANS CONNECTED WITH EUCOM FACILITIES. I WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR ANY ACTIONS YOU MIGHT TAKE WHICH WOULD REDUCE THE CHANCE OF PERSONNEL UNDER YOUR JURISDICTION TRAVELLING TO UGANDA, THEREBY AVERTING POTENTIALLY SERIOUS INCIDENTS. MARSHALL

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